

DEMAND

This section presents a summary of the conclusions of this planning process relative to the public demand for specific recreation activities and the need for resources and facilities to meet those needs.

METHODS USED TO ASSESS PUBLIC DEMAND AND NEEDS

This plan is based on an exhaustive and comprehensive sampling of Tennesseans' opinions about recreation. The planning team gathered public input from four separate perspectives.

National Survey of Recreation and Conservation

To analyze the recreation interests of a representative cross-section of all Tennesseans, TDEC acquired data from the *1999-2003 National Survey of Recreation and Conservation (NSRE)*. This survey conducted telephone interviews of approximately 2,100 individuals in Tennessee. The data also includes responses from 14,000 individuals in the market region of states surrounding Tennessee. The survey sample closely matches the population demographics of the state and the market region, as reflected in the *2000 US Census*. Data acquired for this plan reflect responses to the questions: "What recreation activities did you participate in during the last year?" and "What are your three favorite recreation activities?"

The NSRE is an ongoing project conducted by the Outdoor Recreation and Wilderness Assessment Group, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service in partnership with NOAA, the USDA's Economic Research Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDI Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the University of Georgia, and the University of Tennessee.

For analysis of the NSRE data, see *Statewide Recreation Demand and Local Recreation Demand*. For the NSRE data used in these analyses, see *NSRE Tennessee Report*.)

Public Workshops

To gather direct public input, TDEC-RES and PARTAS conducted a series of nine public workshops, one in each planning region, during April and May, 2003. The planning team collected over 600 specific comments from 150 attendees. It should be recognized that this sampling method is unscientific because the attendees are self-selected and are not a representative cross-section of the population of the state. However, the concerns and priorities expressed by these workshop attendees show a fairly strong correlation to the NSRE participation data, suggesting that most of their opinions and priorities do in fact reflect those of the broader population.

Needs Survey of Local Agencies

To assess the needs of local recreation providers, TDEC collected survey responses from 154 local government agencies. This survey asked questions about recreation issues, needs and priorities in the respondent's jurisdiction.

Tennessee Recreation Advisory Committee (TRAC)

To gain a big-picture perspective from upper-level policy makers, career recreation professionals, and recreation and conservation activists, TDEC consulted with the Tennessee Recreation Advisory Committee (TRAC). Analyzing the input from the NSRE survey, the public meetings, and the local needs survey, the TRAC committee identified a set of critical issue areas and developed Action Program proposals to address these issues.

STATEWIDE RECREATION DEMAND

Tennessee's recreation system consists of statewide resources, which are generally managed by federal and state agencies, and local resources, which are generally managed by local agencies. This chapter analyzes demand relating to the statewide components of the system.

The data generated by the *1999-2003 National Survey of Recreation and Conservation (NSRE)* allows analysis of recreation demand from four different perspectives:

NSRE Data set	Coverage	Conclusions
Participation data, 2003 NSRE	Tennessee	Recreation demand among Tennessee residents
Participation data, 1995 NSRE and 2003 NSRE	Tennessee	Trends in recreation demand among Tennessee residents
Favorite activities data, 2003 NSRE	National	Possible areas of underserved latent demand
Participation data, 2003 NSRE	Tennessee and adjoining states	Recreation demand in Tennessee's tourism market

Recreation Participation among Tennessee Residents

The 1999-2003 NSRE participation data is designed to provide accurate estimates of the number of Tennesseans age 16 or over who participated in specific recreation activities during a one-year period.

High Participation Activities

The high participation activities are ones in which 25% or more of Tennessee residents participated. The top seven activities had greater than 50% participation rates and 2.3 million or more total participants during a one-year period:

- Walking for pleasure
- Gathering of family, friends
- Driving for pleasure
- Viewing/photographing natural scenery
- Picnicking
- Visiting a nature center, nature trail, zoo
- Sightseeing

All of the activities on the high participation list are attracting very large numbers of Tennesseans therefore these activities have been identified as ones that warrant a high priority in recreation planning statewide.

High Participation Activities (greater than 25% of Tennessee residents)	Percent Participating	Number of Participants (millions)
Walking for pleasure	80.9	3.60
Gathering of family, friends	73.4	3.27
Driving for pleasure	63.8	2.84
Viewing/photographing natural scenery	57.1	2.54
Picnicking	55.6	2.47
Visiting a nature center, nature trail, zoo	53.1	2.36
Sightseeing	51.2	2.28
Viewing/photographing other wildlife	45.3	2.02
Swimming in an outdoor pool	41.5	1.85
Viewing/photographing wildflower, trees, etc.	40.5	1.80
Visiting a historic site	40.5	1.80
Yard Games, e.g., horseshoes	39.9	1.78
Swimming in lake, stream, or ocean*	35.4	1.58
Running or jogging	34.7	1.54
Day Hiking	34.2	1.52
Visiting a wilderness or primitive area	34.2	1.52
Fishing in freshwater	33.5	1.49
Viewing/photographing birds	31.6	1.41
Warmwater fishing	30.3	1.35
Bicycling	29.1	1.30
Gathering mushrooms, berries, etc.	27.1	1.21
Visiting a farm or agricultural setting	26.8	1.19
Visiting other waterside (beside beach)	25.5	1.13

* Includes saltwater activities outside Tennessee

Medium Participation Activities

The medium participation activities are ones in which 9% - 25% of Tennessee residents participated. The top five activities in this list had greater than 20% participation rates and between 900,000 and 1.1 million total participants during a one-year period:

- Camping – developed campsite
- Motorboating
- Viewing/photographing fish *
- Rafting, canoeing, kayaking, tubing
- Driving off-road

* Participation data for this activity may be inaccurate in terms of activities of Tennesseans within the state, because the question includes saltwater fish.

All of the activities on the medium participation list are attracting moderately large numbers of Tennesseans, therefore these activities have been identified as ones that warrant a medium priority in recreation planning statewide.

Medium Participation Activities (between 9 and 25% of Tennessee residents)	Percent Participating	Number of Participants (millions)
Camping - developed	24	1.07
Motorboating	23.7	1.05
Viewing/photographing fish (fresh or saltwater)*	21.5	0.96
Rafting, canoeing, kayaking, tubing	21.2	0.94
Driving off-road	20.2	0.90
Visiting prehistoric/archeological site	19.4	0.86
Basketball outdoors	18.1	0.81
Tennis outdoors	16.3	0.73
Camping - primitive	15.3	0.68
Mountain biking	14.6	0.65
Sledding	12.9	0.57
Hunting	12.2	0.54
Golf	12.1	0.54
Fishing in cold water (trout)	12	0.53
Boat tours or excursions	11.9	0.53
Inline skating or rollerblading	10.4	0.46
Horseback riding (general)	10.3	0.46
Hunting small game	9.8	0.44
Backpacking	9.4	0.42
Volleyball outdoors	9.3	0.41
Jet skiing (personal watercraft)	9.2	0.41

* Includes saltwater activities outside Tennessee

Lower Participation Activities

The lower participation activities are ones in which fewer than 9% of Tennessee residents participated.

All of the activities on the lower participation list are attracting fewer Tennesseans therefore these activities have been identified as ones that warrant a lower priority in recreation planning statewide.

Lower Participation Activities (9% or fewer of Tennessee residents)	Percent Participating	Number of Participants (millions)
Caving	9	0.40
Horseback riding on trails	9	0.40
Hunting big game	8.7	0.39
Football	8.6	0.38
Softball	7.9	0.35
Handball or racquetball outdoors	7.8	0.35
Waterskiing	7.7	0.34
Mountain climbing	7.6	0.34
Baseball	7.5	0.33
Snowshoeing	5.5	0.25
Snorkeling	4.6	0.21
Rock climbing	4.1	0.18
Downhill skiing	4	0.18
Sailing	3.3	0.15
Orienteering	2.9	0.13
Ice skating outdoors	2.6	0.12
Soccer outdoors	2.6	0.12
Hunting migratory birds (waterfowl)	2.2	0.10
Rowing	1.8	0.08
Snowboarding	1.8	0.08
Scuba diving	1.1	0.05
Cross country skiing	0.8	0.04
Snowmobiling	0.7	0.03
Windsurfing	0.5	0.02

Trends in Recreation Demand among Tennessee Residents

Comparing the Tennessee participation data from the 1995 NSRE and the 2003 NSRE provides insight into how the popularity of individual recreation activities is changing. Data from both surveys was analyzed for 54 individual activities.

High Growth Activities

The high growth activities were defined as ones for which total annual participants grew by 250,000 or more between the 1995 and 2003 NSRE surveys. The largest growth among these activities occurred in viewing/photographing all wildlife, walking for pleasure, gathering of family and friends, and day hiking. These activities are adding the largest numbers of new participants, and are therefore of high priority in statewide recreation planning. The results for this category are tabulated below:

High Growth Activities	New participants (millions)
Viewing/photographing all wildlife	1.63
Walking for pleasure	1.08
Gathering of family, friends	1.02
Viewing/photographing wildlife (not birds or fish)	0.88
Day Hiking	0.6
Bicycling	0.56
Picnicking	0.51
Viewing/photographing fish (fresh or saltwater)*	0.49
Driving off-road	0.42
Rafting, canoeing, kayaking, tubing	0.41
Camping - developed	0.36
Visiting a historic site	0.33
Tennis outdoors	0.32
Visiting nature center, nature trail, zoo	0.32
Visiting other waterside (beside beach)	0.32
Running or jogging	0.27
Viewing/photographing birds	0.26
Yard Games, e.g., horseshoes	0.26
Sledding	0.25

* Includes saltwater activities outside Tennessee

Medium Growth Activities

The medium growth activities were defined as ones for which total annual participants grew between 50,000 and 240,000 between the 1995 and 2003 NSRE surveys. The largest growth among these activities occurred in basketball outdoors, primitive camping, non-pool swimming, visiting an archaeological site, and mountain climbing. These activities are adding moderately large numbers of new participants, and are therefore of medium priority in statewide recreation planning. The results for this category are tabulated below:

Medium Growth Activities	New participants (millions)
Basketball outdoors	0.24
Camping - primitive	0.23
Swimming in lake, stream, or ocean*	0.22
Visiting prehistoric/archeological site	0.22
Mountain climbing	0.21
Swimming in an outdoor pool	0.17
Handball or racquetball outdoors	0.16
Jet skiing (personal watercraft)	0.15
Warmwater fishing	0.15
Backpacking	0.12
Fishing in cold water (trout)	0.09
Horseback riding (general)	0.09
Hunting small game	0.08
Football	0.07
Ice skating outdoors	0.07
Baseball	0.06
Hunting	0.06
Caving	0.05
Rock climbing	0.05

* Includes saltwater activities outside Tennessee

Low or Negative Growth Activities

The low or negative growth activities were defined as ones for which total annual participants grew by fewer than 50,000 or decreased between the 1995 and 2003 NSRE surveys. The largest growth among these activities occurred in rowing, sailing, and orienteering. These activities are adding the largest numbers of new participants, and are therefore of high priority in statewide recreation planning. The results for this category are tabulated below:

Low or Negative Growth Activities	New participants (millions)
Rowing	0.04
Sailing	0.04
Orienteering	0.02
Motorboating	0.01
Snowmobiling	0.01
Hunting big game	0
Hunting migratory birds (waterfowl)	0
Sightseeing	0
Cross country skiing	-0.01
Snowboarding	-0.01
Downhill skiing	-0.03
Golf	-0.06
Windsurfing	-0.06
Soccer outdoors	-0.07
Waterskiing	-0.1
Softball	-0.18
Volleyball outdoors	-0.21

Activities for which growth data is unavailable

The following activities were not included in the 1995 NSRE questionnaire, and no meaningful data is available on their rates of growth:

- Boat tours or excursions
- Driving for pleasure
- Fishing in freshwater
- Gathering mushrooms, berries, etc.
- Horseback riding on trails
- Inline skating or rollerblading
- Mountain biking
- Scuba diving
- Snorkeling
- Snowshoeing
- Viewing/photographing natural scenery
- Viewing/photographing wildflower, trees, etc.
- Visiting a farm or agricultural setting
- Visiting a wilderness or primitive area

Latent Demand

The NSRE participation data gives a good measure of which activities most popular among the residents of Tennessee. However, this data does not measure interest in activities that individuals wish to enjoy but cannot because of inadequate opportunities or other barriers. Latent demand becomes most critical at the local level, where residents of a particular community may want certain recreation experiences that are unavailable in their area. Assessing local demand is outside the scope of this plan. TDEC's local parks and recreation grant programs address the issue of latent demand at the local level by prioritizing grant applicants that survey and document the unmet needs of their communities.

There is, however, national data available which can suggest areas where latent demand may be factor in Tennessee. One module of the NSRE asked individuals which recreation activities were their three favorites. While the data available from these questions is for Americans as a whole and not specifically Tennessee, it may provide some insight when compared to participation patterns.

The top third of the "favorite activity" list, ranked by how often each was cited as a favorite, are shown below:

Highest-Ranking Favorite Activities (in order of popularity)	Participation level
Walking for exercise or pleasure	HH
Bicycling for exercise or pleasure	H
Day hiking	H
Swimming in streams, lakes, ponds, or the ocean*	H
Motorboating (not including personal watercraft)	M
Camping at developed sites with facilities	M
Downhill skiing	L
Sightseeing	HH
Swimming in an outdoor pool	H
Basketball outdoors	M
Horseback riding or other equestrian activities	M
Running or jogging	H
Golf	M
Driving off-road (4-wheel drive, ATV, or motorcycle)	M
Tennis outdoors	M
Picnicking	HH
Canoeing and kayaking	M
Baseball	L
Scuba diving	LL
Waterskiing	L
Softball	L

* Includes saltwater activities outside Tennessee

Sixteen activities on this list have both high or medium levels of participation and high ranking as a "favorite activity." This data could be taken to suggest that most people generally have adequate opportunities to participate in most of these favorite activities, at least once a year.

The five activities on this list with low participation levels may be of particular interest in terms of latent demand, because these data may indicate barriers to participating in a favorite recreation

activity as often as an individual would like. The most commonly cited non-health-related barriers to recreation cited in the NSRE were time constraints and expense. **Downhill skiing** and **scuba diving** are both time-consuming and expensive activities; and **waterskiing** also involves substantial expense.

In the case of **baseball and softball**, these data raise a question: “Are people not participating as often in these favorite activities because of a lack of ball fields?” That question can only be answered in the context of a local survey of recreation needs, because these are activities that people most often participate in close to where they live. It should be noted that these national “favorite activity” responses can only suggest activities for which recreation supply may be inadequate in specific locations and may need further examination. They do not allow specific conclusions.

The middle third of the “favorite activity” list, ranked by how often each was cited as a favorite, are as follows:

Medium-Ranking Favorite Activities (in order of popularity)	Participation level
Hunting (all)	M
Boating using a personal watercraft	M
Camping at primitive sites without facilities	M
Viewing or photographing natural scenery	HH
Mountain climbing	L
Driving for pleasure	HH
Freshwater fishing	H
Soccer outdoors	L
Sailing	L
Volleyball outdoors	M
Rollerblading	M
Hunting big game	L
Football	L
Snowboarding	LL
Cross country skiing or ski touring	LL
Rock climbing	L
Rafting, tubing, or other floating on rivers or other flowing water	M
Viewing, identifying, or photographing wildlife besides birds and fish	H
Visiting an outdoor nature center, nature trail, visitor center, or zoo	HH
Snorkeling	L
Mountain biking	M

Twelve activities on this list have high or medium levels of participation and medium ranking on “favorite activity” list, suggesting a general balance between demand and supply.

Ten of the activities on this list have lower participation rates, despite being ranked in the middle third of the “favorite activity” list. These data suggest that there could be barriers to participating in these activities as often as many people would like. **Sailing** involves significant expense. **Mountain climbing, hunting big game, snowboarding, cross country skiing, rock climbing, and snorkeling** all require specific kinds of recreation sites that may not be accessible close to

where most people live. These activities also require a high level of specialized knowledge, which can serve as a barrier to participation in the case of many individuals who would like to experience the activity but do not have the time or access to necessary training. The popularity of these activities may be influenced by increased media coverage of “adventure activities.”

In the case of **soccer and football** these data raise the question, “Is there greater demand for these activities than the current supply of opportunities can meet?” Again, these national “favorite activity” responses can only suggest areas in which recreation supply might be inadequate and would warrant further examination at the local planning level. They do not allow specific conclusions.

Recreation Demand in Tennessee's Tourism Market

Three proposals in this plan's Action Program involve cooperation between the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development and the state and federal agencies that manage recreation resources. TDTD's primary mission is to market Tennessee attractions to non-residents; therefore, it may be helpful to analyze recreation participation data for residents of the eight states surrounding Tennessee. These states have a total population of 42.9 million and provide a major portion of Tennessee's total visitors.

The NSRE has provided participation data for Tennessee and the eight surrounding states from a total of 16,000 interviews. (NSRE data for the surrounding states only was not available.) Participation levels in this data set closely match those for Tennessee residents. The list of activities with 20% or greater levels of participation is shown below:

Activity	Percent participating, Tenn. Market region	Number of participants, Tenn. market region
Walk for Pleasure	81.8	30,858,122
Family Gathering	73.7	27,802,489
Driving for Pleasure	58.4	22,030,738
View/Photograph Natural Scenery	55.3	20,861,298
Sightseeing	52.2	19,691,858
Visit Nature Centers, etc.	52.1	19,654,134
Picnicking	51.2	19,314,619
Visit Historic Sites	43.9	16,560,777
View/Photograph Other Wildlife	43.5	16,409,882
Swimming in an Outdoor Pool	42.4	15,994,919
View/Photograph Wildflowers, Trees, etc.	41.1	15,504,509
Swimming in Lakes, Streams, Etc.	38.1	14,372,793
Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	37.7	14,221,897
Freshwater fishing	35.3	13,316,525
Running or Jogging	32.1	12,109,361
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	31.4	11,845,294
Warmwater Fishing	31.3	11,807,570
View/Photograph Birds	31	11,694,398
Bicycling	30.6	11,543,503
Day Hiking	29.2	11,015,369
Gather Mushrooms, Berries, etc.	28.9	10,902,197
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	27.5	10,374,063
Visit other waterside (besides beach)	25.3	9,544,138
Motorboating	24.8	9,355,519
View/Photograph Fish	24.6	9,280,071
Developed Camping	23.1	8,714,213
Rafting, canoeing, kayaking, tubing	22.3	8,412,422
Drive Off-road	21.1	7,959,736
Visit Prehistoric/Archeological Sites	19.5	7,356,154
Boat tours or excursions	16.1	6,073,542
Basketball Outdoors	15.6	5,884,923
Mountain Biking	15.3	5,771,751

Activity	Percent participating, Tenn. Market region	Number of participants, Tenn. market region
Primitive Camping	15.2	5,734,028
Hunting (all)	14.1	5,319,065

These data can be used to identify specific types of recreation resources that could be of high interest to potential visitors from surrounding states. Resource types for each of these activities are shown below:

Activity	Recreation resource types
Walk for Pleasure	Park trail, greenway trail (paved or unpaved)
Family Gathering	Park pavilion, inn, cabins
Driving for Pleasure	Scenic parkway or byway
View/Photograph Natural Scenery	Natural habitat area, greenway, scenic parkway or byway, scenic river
Sightseeing	Natural habitat area, greenway, scenic parkway or byway, scenic river
Visit Nature Centers, etc.	Nature center, park trail, greenway trail (paved or unpaved)
Picnicking	Park picnic tables, pavilion
Visit Historic Sites	Historic site
View/Photograph Other Wildlife	Natural habitat area, greenway
Swimming in an Outdoor Pool	Swimming pool
View/Photograph Wildflowers, Trees, etc.	Natural habitat area, greenway
Swimming in Lakes, Streams, Etc.	Lake, stream
Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	Park
Freshwater fishing	Lake, stream
Running or Jogging	Park trail, greenway trail
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	Natural habitat
Warmwater Fishing	Lake, stream
View/Photograph Birds	Natural habitat area, greenway
Bicycling	Park, bike trail, bike route
Day Hiking	Park trail, greenway trail
Gather Mushrooms, Berries, etc.	Natural habitat area, greenway
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	Farm
Visit other waterside (besides beach)	Lake, stream
Motorboating	Lake
View/Photograph Fish	Lake, stream
Developed Camping	Developed park campground
Rafting, canoeing, kayaking, tubing	Stream, scenic river
Drive Off-road	OHV trail
Visit Prehistoric/Archeological Sites	Archaeological site
Boat tours or excursions	Lake
Basketball Outdoors	Park
Mountain Biking	Park trail, bike trail
Primitive Camping	Natural habitat area
Hunting (all)	Natural habitat area

Conclusions – Demand for specific resource types

As noted at the beginning of this chapter, one goal of this plan is to provide information that can help the State of Tennessee develop policies to improve recreation opportunities statewide. Analyzing participation data is a way to assess which specific activities are in relatively high demand. For planning purposes, the next step is to identify the kinds of recreation resources needed to provide opportunities for these high-demand activities.

The recreation activities with high and medium participation rates are associated with certain types of recreation resources, as shown below. Eighteen of these high/medium participation activities, shown in **bold**, have also shown high rates of growth between 1995 and 2003

High & Medium Participation Activities (in order of participation level)	Recreation resource types
Walking for pleasure	Park trail, greenway trail (paved or unpaved)
Gathering of family, friends	Park pavilion, inn, cabins
Driving for pleasure	Scenic parkway or byway
Viewing/photographing natural scenery	Natural habitat area, greenway, scenic parkway or byway, scenic river
Picnicking	Park picnic tables, pavilion
Visiting nature center, nature trail, zoo	Nature center, park trail, greenway trail (paved or unpaved)
Sightseeing	Natural habitat area, greenway, scenic parkway or byway, scenic river
Viewing/photographing wildlife (not birds or fish)	Natural habitat area, greenway
Swimming in an outdoor pool	Swimming pool
Viewing/photographing wildflower, trees, etc.	Natural habitat area, greenway
Visiting a historic site	Historic site
Yard Games, e.g., horseshoes	Recreation area
Swimming in lake, stream, or ocean	Lake, stream, scenic river
Running or jogging	Park trail, greenway trail
Day Hiking	Park trail, greenway trail
Visiting a wilderness or primitive area	Natural habitat area
Fishing in freshwater	Lake, stream, scenic river
Viewing/photographing birds	Natural habitat area, greenway
Warmwater fishing	Lake, stream, scenic river
Bicycling	Park trail, bike trail, bike route
Gathering mushrooms, berries, etc.	Natural habitat area, greenway
Visiting a farm or agricultural setting	Farm site
Visiting other waterside (beside beach)	Lake, stream, scenic river
Camping - developed	Developed park campground
Motorboating	Lake
Viewing/photographing fish (fresh or saltwater)*	Lake, stream, scenic river
Rafting, canoeing, kayaking, tubing	Stream, scenic river
Driving off-road	OHV trail
Visiting prehistoric/archeological site	Archaeological site
Basketball outdoors	Recreation area court

High & Medium Participation Activities (in order of participation level)	Recreation resource types
Tennis outdoors	Recreation area court
Camping - primitive	Natural habitat area
Mountain biking	Park trail, greenway trail, mountain bike trail (unpaved)
Sledding	Sledding hill
Hunting	Natural habitat area
Golf	Golf course
Fishing in cold water (trout)	Stream, scenic river
Boat tours or excursions	Lake
Inline skating or rollerblading	Park trail, greenway trail
Horseback riding (general)	Park trail, greenway trail
Hunting small game	Natural habitat area
Backpacking	Natural habitat area
Volleyball outdoors	Recreation area court
Jet skiing (personal watercraft)	Lake

Each of these resource types has been scored in terms of the total number of participants potentially using each. The results suggest that the following resource types may provide the recreation opportunities sought by the greatest number of Tennesseans:

Highest demand recreation resources:

- Natural habitat area, greenway
- Stream, scenic river
- Park trail, greenway trail (paved or unpaved)
- Lake
- Scenic parkway or byway
- Park picnic pavilion and picnic site

While this analysis cannot definitively identify recreation resource needs in any particular region of the state or for any specific park, it can be used as an indication of which types of resources may be in highest demand statewide. It can be concluded that state policies which encourage or support these types of recreation resources will provide the kinds of recreation opportunities sought by the largest numbers of Tennesseans.

The participation data also allow identification of medium demand resource types, which provide recreation opportunities that are sought by large numbers of Tennesseans, but not as large as the numbers served by the highest demand resources.

Medium demand recreation resources:

- Swimming pool
- Historic site
- Recreation area - yard games
- Farm site
- Developed park campground
- OHV trail
- Archaeological site
- Recreation area court - Basketball court
- Recreation area court - tennis
- Sledding hill
- Golf course
- Recreation area court - volleyball

It can be concluded that state policies which encourage these types of recreation resources will serve the needs of a significant but smaller number of Tennessee residents.

Lower Demand Recreation Resources

The following activities are ones that engage 9% or fewer of Tennessee residents and require recreation resources different from the ones discussed above:

Lower Participation Activities (in order of participation level)	Recreation resource types
Caving	Cave
Football	Football, soccer field
Softball	Baseball, softball diamond
Handball or racquetball outdoors	Handball/racquetball court
Baseball	Baseball, softball diamond
Rock climbing	Rock climbing area or artificial wall
Downhill skiing	Ski area
Ice skating outdoors	Skating rink
Soccer outdoors	Football, soccer field
Hunting migratory birds (waterfowl)	Natural habitat area
Rowing	Rowing facility
Snowboarding	Ski area
Cross country skiing	Ski area

Many of these resources, especially ones relating to team sports, can best be provided at the local level, depending on local demand.

LOCAL RECREATION DEMAND

Tennessee's recreation system consists of statewide resources, which are generally managed by federal and state agencies, and local resources, which are generally managed by local agencies. This chapter analyzes demand relating to the local components of the system.

An important mission of TDEC-RES and PARTAS is to provide grants and technical assistance to help local agencies provide for the recreation needs of their communities. One key purpose of this plan is to provide information to help develop priorities for local recreation planning.

Local demand data

The NSRE statewide participation data is too general to provide an accurate picture of recreation demand in any particular local community. Opportunities to participate in specific recreation activities can vary significantly from one locale to another, depending on available resources. In addition, local participation can be strongly affected by whether or not the area has an organized park and recreation department. These kinds of local differences are not reflected in the statewide data. In addition, the NSRE data represents only individuals of age 16 or over. Participation rates for youth sports or young children, who are frequent users of local recreation resources, are best measured at the local rather than the statewide level. Sound recreation planning by local governments requires a local demand and needs analysis, as encouraged in TDEC's local recreation grants priority system and PARTAS's technical assistance program. However, because the statewide data sample is a representative cross-section of Tennessee residents, it can identify activities which might be in high demand in any given local jurisdiction.

For purposes of this analysis, activities most commonly provided by local agencies have been selected from the larger activity list. The table below shows the statewide participation levels and rates of growth between 1995 and 2003 for these activities.

Local Activities (in order of statewide adult participation levels)	Percent of Tenn residents participating	Total Tenn resident participants (millions)	Growth rate (1995-2003)
Walking for pleasure	80.9	3.60	H
Gathering of family, friends	73.4	3.27	H
Viewing/photographing natural scenery	57.1	2.54	no growth data
Picnicking	55.6	2.47	H
Visiting nature center, nature trail, zoo	53.1	2.36	H
Viewing/photographing wildlife (not birds or fish)	45.3	2.02	H
Swimming in an outdoor pool	41.5	1.85	M
Viewing/photographing wildflower, trees, etc.	40.5	1.80	no growth data
Visiting a historic site	40.5	1.80	H
Yard Games, e.g., horseshoes	39.9	1.78	H
Running or jogging	34.7	1.54	H
Day Hiking	34.2	1.52	H
Viewing/photographing birds	31.6	1.41	H
Bicycling	29.1	1.30	H
Visiting prehistoric/archeological site	19.4	0.86	M
Basketball outdoors	18.1	0.81	M
Tennis outdoors	16.3	0.73	H
Mountain biking	14.6	0.65	no growth data

Local Activities (in order of statewide adult participation levels)	Percent of Tenn residents participating	Total Tenn resident participants (millions)	Growth rate (1995-2003)
Golf	12.1	0.54	negative growth
Inline skating or rollerblading	10.4	0.46	no growth data
Horseback riding (general)	10.3	0.46	M
Volleyball outdoors	9.3	0.41	negative growth
Horseback riding on trails	9	0.40	no growth data
Football	8.6	0.38	M
Softball	7.9	0.35	negative growth
Handball or racquetball outdoors	7.8	0.35	M
Baseball	7.5	0.33	M
Ice skating outdoors	2.6	0.12	M
Soccer outdoors	2.6	0.12	negative growth
Rowing	1.8	0.08	L

These local activities are associated with the following kinds of recreation resources:

Local Activities (in order of statewide adult participation levels)	Recreation resource types
Walking for pleasure	Park trail, greenway trail (paved or unpaved)
Gathering of family, friends	Park pavilion, community center
Viewing/photographing natural scenery	Natural habitat area, greenway
Picnicking	Park picnic tables, pavilion
Visiting nature center, nature trail, zoo	Nature center, park trail, greenway trail (paved or unpaved)
Viewing/photographing wildlife (not birds or fish)	Natural habitat area, greenway
Swimming in an outdoor pool	Rec. area swimming pool
Viewing/photographing wildflower, trees, etc.	Natural habitat area, greenway
Visiting a historic site	Historic site
Yard Games, e.g., horseshoes	Park
Running or jogging	Park trail, greenway trail (paved)
Day Hiking	Park trail, greenway trail (unpaved)
Viewing/photographing birds	Natural habitat area, greenway
Bicycling	Park trail, greenway trail, bike route (paved)
Visiting prehistoric/archeological site	Archaeological site
Basketball outdoors	Rec. area court
Tennis outdoors	Rec. area court
Mountain biking	Park trail, greenway trail, mountain bike trail (unpaved)
Golf	Park golf course
Inline skating or rollerblading	Park trail, greenway trail (paved)
Horseback riding (general)	Park trail, greenway trail (unpaved)
Volleyball outdoors	Rec. area court
Horseback riding on trails	Rec. area playing field
Football	Rec. area playing field
Softball	Rec. area playing field
Handball or racquetball outdoors	Rec. area court

Local Activities (in order of statewide adult participation levels)	Recreation resource types
Baseball	Rec. area playing field
Ice skating outdoors	Rec. area skating rink
Soccer outdoors	Rec. area playing field
Rowing	Rec. area rowing facility

Patterns of local demand data

Several patterns which are evident in this list suggest possible recreation planning priorities:

- Four of the highest participation activities are nature viewing activities – viewing/photographing natural scenery, wildlife, wildflowers and trees, and birds – which are associated with natural habitat parklands or greenways that provide wildlife habitat. Three of these activities also show high growth rates. If very large and increasing numbers of Tennessee residents are participating in activities associated with these resources, a large percentage of the residents of any given local area may also share an interest in opportunities to view nature and wildlife. This data tends to reinforce the priority that TDEC has placed on greenway development by local governments. Many counties contain natural habitat and greenways that are managed by state and federal agencies. In these counties, local demand for nature viewing opportunities may be met through cooperation between local and state/federal agencies, as recommended in this plan's action Program. In addition, in rapidly urbanizing areas of the state, there is a danger that not enough natural habitat land will be preserved to satisfy this high demand for places to view wildlife. This plan's Action Program addresses that issue.
- Five of the highest participation activities are trail-related activities – walking for pleasure, visiting a nature trail, running or jogging, day hiking, and bicycling. These include the single highest participation activity among Tennesseans, walking for pleasure, which engages 80.9% of the total population. All five activities also show high growth rates. Again, these data can be taken to suggest that a large and increasing percentage of the residents of any given local area may also share an interest trail resources. Many counties contain trail resources that are managed by state and federal agencies. In these counties, local demand for trail-related opportunities may be met through cooperation between local and state/federal agencies, as recommended in this plan's action Program .
- Swimming pools are the only local recreation resources associated with high participation rates statewide (41.5% of the population.) These data could be taken to suggest that a large percentage of the residents of any given local area may also share an interest swimming in a pool.
- This list contains nine sports activities typically provided by local recreation areas. Four of these activities – basketball, tennis, golf, and volleyball - rank in the medium range in the NSRE participation data. The other five activities – football, softball, handball/racketball, baseball, and soccer - rank in the low range in the NSRE participation data. As noted, the NSRE does not measure participation by children under 16, so the demand for youth sports and other activities for children is excluded from these data. An accurate assessment of local demand for these sports activities can only take place at the local level. It should be noted that all communities contain school sports resources which could be used to enhance the local government's ability to meet demand for these sports activities. Greater use of school/parks multi-use agreements is recommended in this plan's Action Program.

LOCAL AGENCY NEEDS SURVEY

In 2003 PARTAS surveyed local government agencies, asking them about recreation issues affecting them. The following section summarizes the responses received from 154 local agencies.

Priorities

The agencies were asked to assign priorities to five categories of needs issues that are common to most local recreation providers:

- Land Acquisition
- Facilities
- Programming and staffing
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Maintenance

Statewide, the respondents prioritize these issues as follows:

Priority rank	Issue	Score
1	New facilities	78.3
2	Maintenance/renovation of existing facilities	53.3
3	Land Acquisition for parks	49.2
4	Recreation programming and staffing	42.6
5	Accessibility for persons with disabilities	40.6

In terms of frequency scores, New Facilities registered a much higher priority than the others. Maintenance and land acquisition were relatively close to each other, indicating these issues may be nearly equal in importance (as reinforced by the results of the Issues, Barriers and Solutions questions below.)

Some differences were apparent when comparing the responses of agencies with vs. without organized parks and recreation departments. Though the order of priorities remained the same for both, agencies without park and recreation departments ranked new facilities higher, while those with organized departments ranked maintenance and land acquisition slightly higher.

Priority rank	Issue	P&R dept.	No P&R dept.
1	New facilities	70.7	82.1
2	Maintenance/renovation of existing facilities	57.5	51.6
3	Land Acquisition for parks	50.1	48.8
4	Recreation programming and staffing	41.7	42.9
5	Accessibility for persons with disabilities	40.8	40.6

Likewise, some differences emerged in comparing the responses of urban vs. rural communities (as defined by the US Census.)

Priority rank	Issue	Urban	Rural
1	New facilities	72.7	80.5
2	Maintenance/renovation of existing facilities	56.9	52.1
3	Land Acquisition for parks	51.9	48.3

4	Recreation programming and staffing	38.7	44.1
5	Accessibility for persons with disabilities	42.5	40.0

Issues, Barriers, and Solutions

The agencies were asked to identify barriers to providing quality recreation opportunities, to define the three most critical issues affecting them, and suggest solutions to these issues. The responses were grouped into categories and analyzed in terms of frequency. Funding was by far the most dominant issue or barrier identified, and new revenues the most common solution proposed. The next highest needs were for more facilities, land acquisition, and maintenance or renovation of existing facilities. These results are tabulated below:

Local Need Issue	Relative frequency
Funding/grants/new tax revenues	94
More facilities	68
Land acquisition	38
Maintenance/renovation/upgrade/repair of facilities	33
Ballfields	28
Playground equipment	25
Walking/biking paths/trails/greenways	24
More/better recreation dept. staffing	22
More playgrounds	22
Population growth in the community	11
Awareness/support for recreation by community leaders	12

PUBLIC WORKSHOP INPUT

This section summarizes public input about recreation issues and priorities gathered during nine public workshops – one in each planning region - conducted by TDEC-RES and PARTAS during April and May of 2003. It should be recognized that this sampling method is unscientific because the attendees are self-selected and are not a representative cross-section of the population of the state. However, much of the data recorded from this public input process shows a fairly strong correlation to the NSRE data, suggesting that the concerns and priorities recorded in these workshops generally reflect those of the population as a whole.

During the workshops, attendees were presented with six issue categories that had been developed in the *1995 State Recreation Plan*:

- Access
- Environmental issues
- Facilities
- Management and planning
- Programmed activities
- Trails
- Water-based recreation

Attendees were first asked to name issues of concern relating to each of these categories. Then they were asked to assign priority numbers to the issues of greatest concern under each category. The results are tabulated in the following section both for the state as a whole and for each individual workshop.

Highest priority issues statewide

(shown in order of the total votes received)

All issues in the statewide issues list below were assigned High priority rankings based on the priority votes received during the public workshops. The statewide priority ratings shown in this table are based on the total number of High priority votes each issue received in all workshops combined.

Access	State priority
Retrofitting for ADA compliance	1
Transportation - to recreation programs in rural areas	2
Directional road signs to parks	2
Program accessibility (inclusion issue)	2
Public information about recreation opportunities	2
Language issues	3
Transportation for children in compliance with federal law	3
Accessible playgrounds	3
Diversity outreach	3
Programs for people with disabilities	3
Pedestrian-safe access to facilities	3
BMP - best design practices implemented	3

Environmental issues	State priority
Environmental education (developers, schools, landowners)	1
Preservation of open space, natural areas, wetlands, park boundary areas	2
Nature center and education	3
Hunting & fishing access	3
Promote recycling, reuse and litter reduction	3
Erosion control	3

Facilities	State priority
Maintain existing facilities	1
Land acquisition for future parks	2
Greenways, urban greenspace	2
Large open passive recreation areas	2
Multi-use recreation centers	3
Maintenance backlog at state parks	3
Swimming facilities (indoor)	3

Highest priority issues statewide

Management & planning	State priority
Funding	1
Funding for maintenance and planning	2
Grants for development and acquisition	3
Adequate staffing	3
Qualified professionals in management and planning	3
Permanent funding source for parks	3
State park development not politically driven	3
School-park agreements	3
Plan for non-duplication of services/facilities	3
Education of public officials of recreation benefits	3

Programmed activities	State priority
Teen programs	1
Environmental education (all populations: youth, senior, rural, urban, etc.)	1
Healthy lifestyle education (fitness and wellness; youth to seniors)	1
Organized recreation programs	2
Outdoor education (class rooms)	2
Rural programs	2
Community festivals	2
Activities for people with disabilities and using specialized staff/resources	2
Adventure programs (skating, etc) (x games)	2

Trails	State priority
Unpaved multi-use (hiking, mountain bikes)	1
Non-motorized multi-use trails (paved or unpaved)	1
Implementation of greenways plan	1
Community wide system of trails (success story in Kingsport)	2
Trails linked to places people want to go - alternate transportation routes	2
Maintenance plan included with funding	2
Off-road vehicle trails	2
Regional connectivity (linkages) in trails system	2
Multi-use trails (12 feet wide, paved)	2
Bicycle trails & lanes	3

Highest priority issues statewide

Water-based recreation	State priority
Blueways, water trails	1
Public lake access (fishing, boating)	1
Designated public use areas on lakes	2
River access	2
Protection of natural water corridors and features (shoreline management)	2
Indoor pools (therapy pools)	2
Swimming pool w/water features (non-traditional swimming pool)	2
Maintain integrity of existing water resources	3
Multiuse aquatic facility	3

Priorities by Planning Region

The following section summarizes the results of each of the nine public workshops. The items which received no votes or very few votes in the priority ranking process have been deleted. As a result, some categories do not have any items with priority 3 rankings.

Upper East Tennessee Planning Region

Access	Priority
Pedestrian/safe access to facilities	1
Retrofitting facilities for ADA	3
Transportation issues	3

Environmental issues	Priority
Environmental education	1
Open space protection	1
Air and water quality issues	2

Facilities	Priority
Swimming facilities (indoor)	1
Multi-use complexes	1
Ball fields (city and state parks)	2
Maintain existing facilities	2
Developed camping	3
Interpretive facilities	3
Museums	3
Playgrounds	3
Soccer fields	3

Management & planning	Priority
Revenue enhancement	1
Maintenance/security	2
Expansion of recreation services	3
Recreation planning	3

Upper East Tennessee Planning Region

Programmed activities	Priority
Wellness programs	1
Teen/youth programs	1
Senior programs	1
Outdoor/environmental activities	2
Cultural programs	2
Extreme sports	2
Regional programming	2

Trails	Priority
Community wide system of trails (success story in Kingsport)	1
Regional greenway/trail system	1
Better maintenance	1
Trail enforcement	2
Horse trails	2

Water-based recreation	Priority
Multi-use aquatic facility	1
River access and lake access	1
Indoor pools	2
Blue ways, whitewater streams	2
Spray parks	2
Boating and fishing facilities	3

East Tennessee Planning Region

Access	Priority
BMP - best design practices implemented	1
Retrofitting/rehabilitation (current facilities)	1
Socioeconomic accessibility	2

Environmental issues	Priority
Open space and natural areas protection/preservation	1
Water quality	2

Facilities	Priority
Maintain existing facilities	1
Ball fields (special use - 9 months/year)	2
Multi-use camping areas (shelters, program areas)	2
Outdoor picnic shelters and pavilions	2

Management & planning	Priority
Financial commitment to recreation	1
Resource management and protection plan - state parks (golf construction/clear cutting)	2
Recreation/park planning (master or comprehensive) (State parks)	2
Impact fees for land acquisition	2
Streamline grant process (user friendly)	3

Programmed activities	Priority
Rural programs	1
Senior programs	2
Cultural programs	2

Trails	Priority
Multi-use trails - 10 feet wide	1
Mountain bike trails	2
Regional trail alliances	2
State trail maintenance crews	3

East Tennessee Planning Region

Water-based recreation	Priority
Public use land around reservoirs	1
River/lake access	1
Fishing access	2
Boating/fishing facilities	2
Sprinkler playgrounds	3

Southeast Tennessee Planning Region

Access	Priority
Accessible playgrounds	1
Outreach to diversity	1
Impact of increased access	2
Non-motorized river/lake access	2
Access for Spanish speakers (both written/spoken)	3
Transportation accessibility	3

Environmental issues	Priority
Nature center and environmental education	1
Preserving sensitive habitat, wetlands	1
Preserving open space	2
Erosion control, especially in disturbed areas	2
Loss of funding sources for land protection	2
Regulation of OHV/ATVs	2
Landscaping without exotic species, removal of exotic species	2
Healthy forests/watershed protection	3
Preserve native biodiversity	3
Regulation of lake litter in winter months	3

Facilities	Priority
Maintain, enhance, expand existing	1
Urban greenspace	1
Maintenance backlog at state parks	1
Expand multi-use facilities (variety of users; variety of providers)	2
Community centers/playground system	2
Develop moccasin bend park (protecting native sites)	3
Soccer/tennis	3
Disc golf	3
Dog parks	3

Southeast Tennessee Planning Region

Management & planning	Priority
Funding for planning/maintenance	1
Recreation integrated in with land use plan	2
Policy set to support healthy ecosystems	2
Training for park and recreation professionals	2
City/county wide land use plan	3
Development of state park management plans	3
Regional greenways and trails plan	3
Seamless system planning across all levels of government	3
Security/maintenance of facility	3
Tying capital budget into implementation of plan	3

Programmed activities	Priority
Environmental education (all populations: youth/senior/rural/urban, etc.)	1
Healthy lifestyle education (youth to seniors, fitness and wellness)	1
Outdoor recreation programs (hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, etc.)	2
Teen/youth programs	2
Natural resource protection/conservation/values	2
After school activities (on-site)	2
Senior programs	2
Outdoor/environmental safety (introduction to environment) (education 101)	3
Recreation for urban dwellers	3
Cultural programs	3
Rural programs	3

Trails	Priority
Trails linked to places people want to go (alternate transportation routes)	1
Implementation of State Greenways Plan	1
Off road vehicle trails	1
Rails to trails conversion	2
Paved bike trails, routes	2
Mountain bike trails	2
Paved walking/hiking trails	3
Trail maintenance	3
Unpaved walking/hiking	3
Maintenance training/education	3

Southeast Tennessee Planning Region

Water-based recreation	Priority
Designated use areas on lakes	1
Water trails/blueways	1
Education/regulation for jet skis	2
Increase public boating facilities (rivers and lakes) (ramps, docks, maintenance)	2
Water access areas in urban settings, smaller communities	2
Greater access for non-motorized	2
Boating and fishing facilities	3
Handicap accessible public pools	3
Larger regional pools versus neighborhood	3
Environmental issues - cleanups	3

Upper Cumberland Planning Region

Access	Priority
Rehabilitation/retrofitting current facilities	1
Educating public/government about accessibility needs	1
Accessible fishing/water areas	1
Programs that provide access (more options)	2
Rural transportation (all ages)	2
Communication (Hispanic population)	3

Environmental issues	Priority
Environmental education	1
Land acquisition (preservation, protection, conservation)	1
Environmental protection	1
Litter prevention program	2
Hunting/fishing access (need more availability)	2

Facilities	Priority
Multi-use recreation centers	1
Ball fields (youth)	2
Community parks	2
Tennis courts	2
Soccer fields	3
Expand/improve regional state parks	3
Maintenance of existing facilities	3
Renovation of existing facilities (capital improvements)	3

Management & planning	Priority
Maintain funding (grants) for development and land acquisition	1
Ensure local government plans are integrated - regional/state level	1
Land use planning	1
Update strategic management plans for state parks	2
Maintenance - existing facilities	2
Follow/implement strategic management plans for state parks (non-political driven)	3

Upper Cumberland Planning Region

Programmed activities	Priority
Activities for people with disabilities and using specialized staff/resources	1
Adventure programs (skating, X games)	1
Non-traditional athletics (eg., lacrosse)	1
Teen programs	2
Environmental/interpretive programs	3
Cultural programs	3
Historical programs	3
Seniors programs	3

Trails	Priority
Multi-use trails (12 feet wide, paved)	1
Unpaved multi-use (esp. Mountain bicycles)	1
Bicycle trails	2
Connected trails (community wide system)	2
Greenway development	2
Maintenance of existing trails	3

Water-based recreation	Priority
Maintain integrity of existing water resources	1
Affordability of pools in rural areas	1
Accessibility to aquatic/fishing/viewing facilities (ADA)	2
Swimming instruction (rural areas)	2
Spray parks/grounds (look at different concepts)	3
River access at various points including private lands	3

Middle Tennessee Planning Region, Nashville Division

Access	Priority
Transportation to recreation programs in rural areas	1
Program accessibility (diversity issue)	1
Retrofitting for ADA (funding needs)	1
Recognize that all things cannot be accessible	1
Mobile recreation units (recreation mobiles)	2
Construct/locate for pedestrian access	2
Provide specialized equipment as opposed to changing facility	3
Encourage bike access lanes, parking, etc.	3
Neighborhood location for easy pedestrian access	3

Environmental issues	Priority
Environmental education (developers, school groups, landowners, all environments)	1
Promote recycling, reuse and litter reduction	2
Invasive species/plant native species	2
Protection of natural water resources	2
Land banking for future	2
Wetlands protection	2
Natural area, open space preservation and conservation	3
Stronger enforcement for pollution (steeper penalties)	3

Facilities	Priority
Large open non-programmed space	1
Maintaining and improving existing facilities	1
Land banking for the future	1
Skate parks	2
Athletic facilities - ball fields for all ages	2
Dog parks	2
Interpretive/environmental centers	2
Recreation center	3

Middle Tennessee Planning Region, Nashville Division

Management & planning	Priority
Funding issues (additional revenue)	1
Qualified professionals in management and planning	1
Permanent funding source for parks	1
State park development not politically driven (don't compete with private sector)	1
Interagency coordination and public information	2
Regional planning for greenways (interagency)	2
When developing facilities - plan for environmental protection (mitigation plan)	3
State greenways and trails administrator needed	3
Plans should address cultural diversity	3
Security planning	3
More technical assistance - local recreation plan should be part of the county plan	3

Programmed activities	Priority
Wilderness/environmental (elder hostel/seniors - nature study programs)	1
Teen programs	1
Ethnic awareness (diversity)	1
Cultural programs	1
Historical heritage programs	2
Emphasis on family programs	2
Seniors programs	2
Intergenerational programming	2
Children's health (obesity issues)	3

Trails	Priority
Hiking trails (foot trails)	1
Greenway - multi-use trails (develop to function like riparian corridor)	1
Mountain bike trails/non-paved	2
Bike lanes and trails (paved in urban areas)	2
Linking state, federal and local trails	2
Accessibility of and to trails	2
Trail maintenance - bridges, etc.	2
Trails connecting to parks	2
Cultural corridors (like Natchez Trace Parkway, Civil War trails, Trail of Tears)	2
Trail use compatibility - horse, bike, human, dog	3

Middle Tennessee Planning Region, Nashville Division

Water-based recreation	Priority
Protection of natural water corridors and features (shoreline management)	1
Canoe/kayak access	1
Wading/splash water parks/swimming pools	1
Natural Water-based educational activities (aquarium) (better public education)	2
Fishing opportunities	2
Fishing piers - local access	2
Beach areas	2
Fresh water fish hatcheries	2
Finding certified lifeguards	2

Middle Tennessee Planning Region, South Central Division

Access	Priority
Making trails accessible to people with disabilities (state parks)	1

Environmental issues	Priority
Open space protection (specifically boundary problems)	1
Loss of hunting areas	2
Environmental clearing process needs to be streamlined and better coordinated	3

Facilities	Priority
Land/open space for future development	1
Rehabilitation/renovation of existing facilities	1
Ballfields	2
Skate parks	3
Master plan for facilities	3

Management & planning	Priority
Education of public officials about benefits of recreation	1
Local master plans (facilities/land use, design of parks, county or community-wide plan)	2
Better coordination with boards and commissions, leagues, volunteer organizations (facility use and planning)	3
More public/private partnerships	3
Regional recreation authorities	3

Programmed activities	Priority
Wellness programs	1
Benefits of programs shared with local officials	3
Cultural programs (i.e., literacy programs)	3
Rural programs (Lewis, Perry, and Wayne counties)	3
Non-traditional recreation programs	3

Trails	Priority
Public information about existing trail systems	1
Maintenance and education	2
Connectivity of trails along Duck River	3
Links to sidewalk system in urban areas	3

Middle Tennessee Planning Region, South Central Division

Water-based recreation	Priority
Public boat launches	1
Water parks (splash pads)	1
Enhance current pools (rehabilitation)	2
Lack of funding for equipment, aquatic programs (scuba, swim teams, etc.)	2

West Tennessee Planning Region, Northwest Division

Access	Priority
Public information	1
Language issues	2
Facilities accessible to people with disabilities	2
Transportation	2
Increase use of web sites for public information	2
Programs for people with disabilities	3

Environmental issues	Priority
Environmental education	1
Natural area protection	1
Wildlife viewing areas	2
Hunting/fishing access	2
Open space protection	2
Hunter safety courses	2
Interpretive trails	3

Facilities	Priority
Greenway trails	1
Passive recreation areas	1
Playground and picnic areas	2
Community rec. centers	2
Upgrade state park facilities	2
Upgrade existing community facilities	2
Boardwalks and trails	2
Interpretive center	2
Loop walking/jogging trail (paved)	3
Cultural arts facilities	3

Management & planning	Priority
Funding	1
Maintenance	1
Security	2
School-parks cooperation	2
Interagency coordination (all levels)	2
Education of benefits of recreation	3
City and county participation in funding (partnerships)	3

West Tennessee Planning Region, Northwest Division

Programmed activities	Priority
Organized recreation programs	1
Community festivals	1
Teen/youth programs	2
Family programs	2
Cultural programs	2
Rural programs	2
Senior programs	2
General fitness	2
Interpretive programs	3

Trails	Priority
Multi use/non-motorized	1
Hiking	1
Community wide system of trails	1
Bicycle trails	2
Boardwalks	2
Horse trail	3
Interpretive trails	3
ATV trails (areas)	3

Water-based recreation	Priority
Indoor pools (therapy pools)	1
Swimming pool w/water features (non-traditional swimming pool)	1
Public fishing	2
Swimming lessons	2
Canoe trails, blueways	2
Additional access at Reelfoot (boat launches & parking)	2
River access canoe/small motor	3
Small boat marina	3
Boat/canoe rental facilities	3

West Tennessee Planning Region, Southwest Division

Access	Priority
Directional signs-roadways	1
Facilities accessible to people w/disabilities	2
Transportation for children in compliance with federal law	2
Promotion/websites relaying info about accessible facilities	2
Parking-adequate support facilities	3
Access for culturally diverse (signage)	3
All state parks marked on interstates with signs	3

Environmental issues	Priority
Environmental education	1
Hunting & fishing access	2
Protection of wetlands	2
Natural area preservation	2
Boundary encroachment	3
Wildlife viewing areas	3

Facilities	Priority
Land acquisition for future park development	1
Maintain & improve existing facilities	1
Maintain & improve existing state parks	1
Community recreation centers, gymnasiums	2
Soccer	2
ADA trails	3
Adequate capital & operation funds	3
Ball fields	3
Lakeside camping/lodging at Carroll Co. Lake	3

Management & planning	Priority
Adequate staffing	1
Funding availability and distribution	1
School-park agreements	2
Park encroachment/boundary protection (resurvey)	3
Update & maintain strategic management plan for state parks	3
Staff training (professional)	3
Integrate planning with all agencies	3
Public information and marketing	3
Comprehensive recreation planning	3
Integrate recreation plan into local government plan	3

West Tennessee Planning Region, Southwest Division

Programmed activities	Priority
Outdoor education (class rooms)	1
Programs for disabled persons	2
Rural county programs	2
Teen programs	2
Seniors programs	2
After school (all ages at school sites)	3
Culture programs	3

Trails	Priority
Maintenance plan with funding	1
Regional connectivity of trails system	1
ADA trails	2
Walking trails (hard surface)	2
Greenways systems	2
Boardwalks on trails	3
Comprehensive trail plan	3

Water-based recreation	Priority
Blueways/water trails: Hatchie River, Tuscumbia River	1
Public lake access (fishing)	1
Public lake access (boating)	1
Swimming pools indoor (aquatic center)	2
ADA access	2
Swimming instruction (youth & adult)	2
Management of aquatic vegetation	3
Outdoor pools (traditional)	3
Splash parks	3
Non-motorized boating programs (canoeing etc.)	3
Scenic River protection for Tuscumbia River	3

West Tennessee Planning Region, Memphis Division

Access	Priority
Programs for people with disabilities	1
Diversity outreach	2
Renovation of existing facilities	2
Access to nature facilities for inner city /low income	2
ADA	3

Environmental issues	Priority
Erosion control	1
Wetlands protection	2
Watershed protection and buffer zone	2
Environmental education	3
Improve tree ordinance	3
Protect natural areas, wetlands, etc.	3
Open space protection	3

Facilities	Priority
Maintenance /upkeep on existing facilities	1
Security (vandalism prevention ranger program)	1
Community centers	2
Develop nature centers (state & local)	2
Historical/cultural education facilities	2
Neighborhood parks	2
Passive recreation areas	2

Management & planning	Priority
Plan for nonduplication of services/facilities	1
Security/maintenance	2
Staff development and certification	2
Dedicated funding sources	3
Relax requirements for grant application process	3
When grants or awarded they should not be held up	3
Workshop for grant applications	3

West Tennessee Planning Region, Memphis Division

Programmed activities	Priority
Senior programs	1
Youth fitness programs	1
Programs for middle aged	1
Greenway program development	2
General youth program	2
Recreation programs	2

Trails	Priority
Bicycle trails & lanes	1
Nature trails	2
Maintenance & education	2
Develop greenways/greenbelts	3
Off-road vehicle trails	3
Automobile scenic trails with signage	3

Water-based recreation	Priority
River access for the Wolf and Mississippi Rivers	1
Indoor Olympic-sized (50 meter) pool	2
Water parks	2
Indoor therapeutic pool	3
Large watershed lake for recreation use (500+ acres)	3